



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending January 24, 2015

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.

SUMMARY

During the week ending January 24, 2015, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **LOW** and there was **WIDESPREAD** geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Sentinel Providers rose slightly, while the proportion reported by Maryland Emergency Departments fell. The proportion of MRITS respondents experiencing ILI increased slightly. The proportion of specimens testing positive for influenza at clinical laboratories continued to decline. The proportion of specimens testing positive at the DHMH lab dropped. A total of 129 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. There were 15 respiratory outbreaks. Nationally, influenza activity remained elevated.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

Minimal

✓ **Low**

Moderate

High

Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity

Sporadic

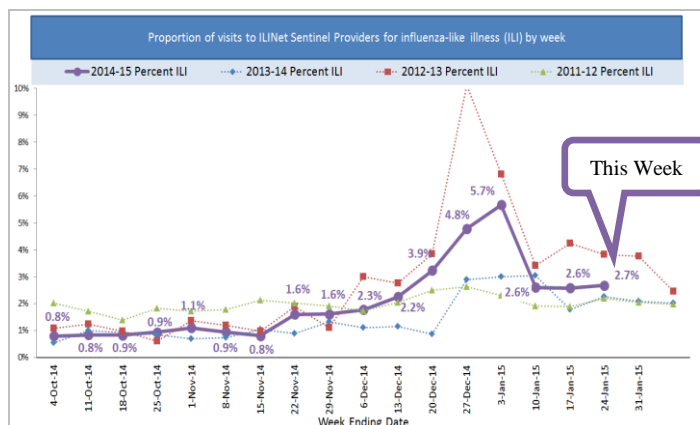
Local

Regional

✓ **Widespread**

ILINet Sentinel Providers

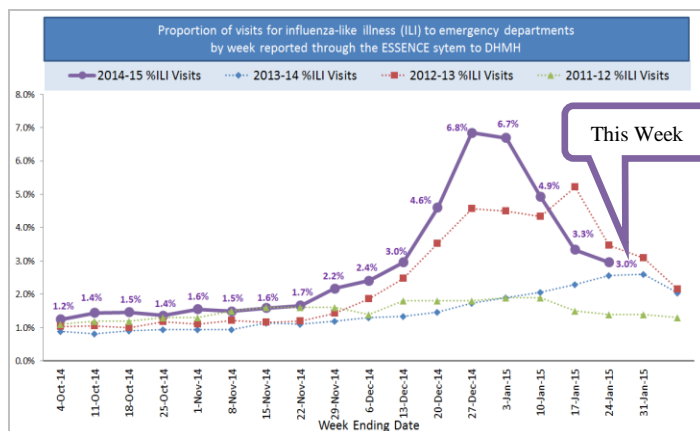
Twenty-three sentinel providers reported a total of 10,567 visits this week. Of those, 282 (2.7%) were visits for ILI. This is **above** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	74 (26%)	53 (19%)	923 (25%)
Age 5-24	129 (46%)	117 (41%)	1489 (40%)
Age 25-49	51 (18%)	66 (23%)	775 (21%)
Age 50-64	21 (7%)	34 (12%)	343 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	7 (2%)	13 (5%)	166 (4%)
Total ILI Visits	282 (100%)	283 (100%)	3696 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 45,114 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 1,332 (3.0%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	274 (21%)	259 (17%)	5592 (24%)
Age 5-24	360 (27%)	388 (26%)	7196 (31%)
Age 25-49	408 (31%)	472 (32%)	5953 (26%)
Age 50-64	175 (13%)	217 (15%)	2425 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	115 (9%)	158 (11%)	1865 (8%)
Unknown	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	1332 (100%)	1494 (100%)	23034 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

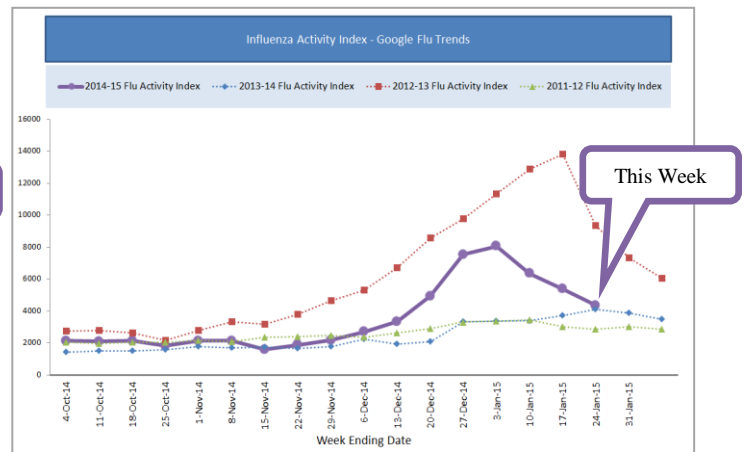
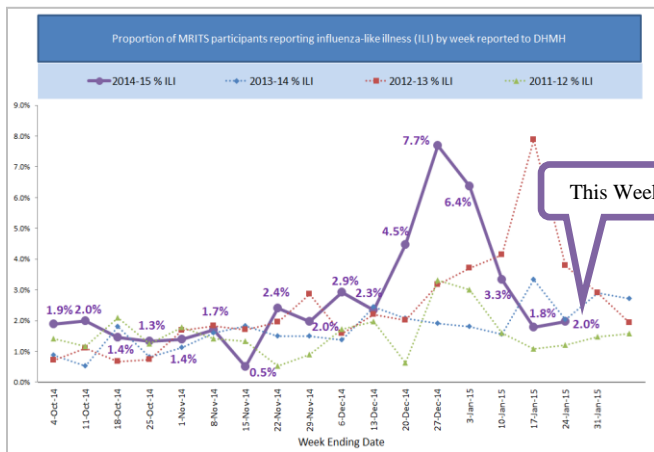
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/flu/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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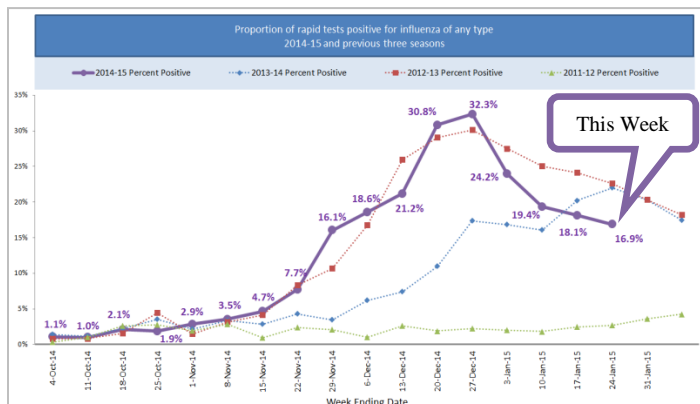
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 610 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 12 (2.0%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 44 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "Moderate" in Maryland.

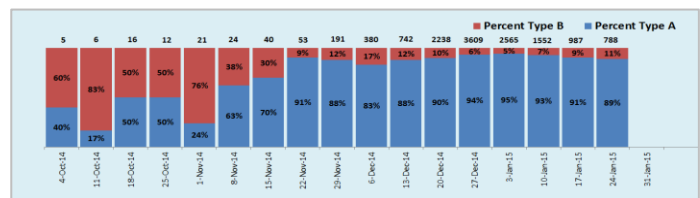


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-seven clinical laboratories reported performing 4,666 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 788 (16.9%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 702 (89.1%) were influenza Type A and 86 (10.9%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

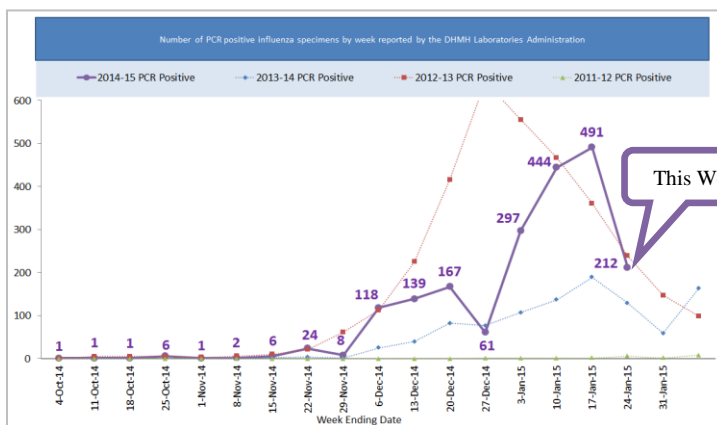


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	702 (89%)	894 (91%)	12102 (91%)
Type B	86 (11%)	93 (9%)	1127 (9%)
Total	788 (100%)	987 (100%)	13229 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 404 PCR tests for influenza. Of those, 212 (52.5%) specimens tested positive. 206 (97.2%) were Type A (H3N2), 2 (0.9%) were Type A (H1N1), 3 (1.4%) were Type B, and 1 (0.5%) was a dual infection, testing positive for both A (H3N2) and B. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	2 (1%)	--	2 (<1%)
Type A (H3)	206 (97%)	485 (99%)	1956 (99%)
Type B	3 (2%)	4 (1%)	18 (1%)
A (H3) - B Dual Infection	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	2 (<1%)
Total	212 (100%)	490 (100%)	1978 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

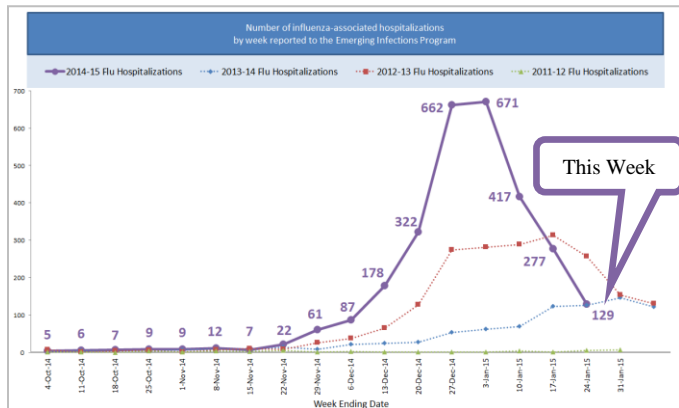
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2014-15 influenza season? Go to <http://dhhm.maryland.gov/flumd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

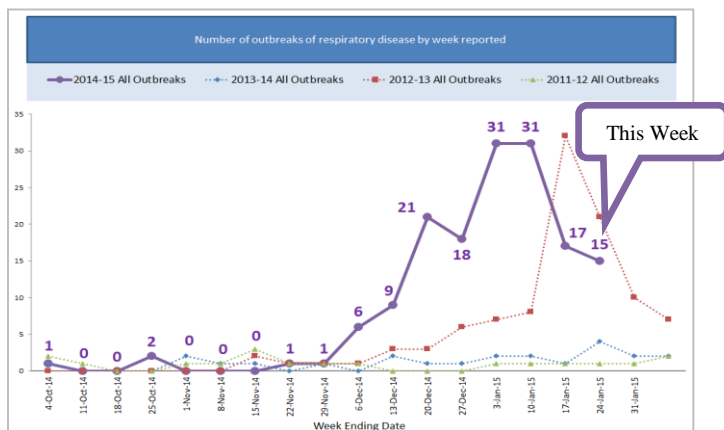
For this week, hospitals in Maryland reported 129 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	11 (9%)	6 (2%)	139 (5%)
Age 5-17	2 (2%)	2 (1%)	63 (2%)
Age 18-24	2 (2%)	7 (3%)	61 (2%)
Age 25-49	10 (8%)	18 (6%)	279 (10%)
Age 50-64	16 (12%)	28 (10%)	429 (15%)
Age ≥ 65	88 (68%)	216 (78%)	1910 (66%)
Total	129 (100%)	277 (100%)	2881 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were 15 respiratory outbreaks reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	14 (93%)	14 (82%)	105 (69%)
Influenza-like Illness	1 (7%)	--	33 (22%)
Pneumonia	--	3 (18%)	15 (10%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	15 (100%)	17 (100%)	153 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 3 (January 18-24, 2015), influenza activity remained elevated in the United States.

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 23,339 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 3, 4,651 (19.9%) were positive for influenza.
- Novel Influenza A Virus:** One human infection with a novel influenza A virus was reported.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** Five influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A cumulative rate for the season of 40.5 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 4.4%, above the national baseline of 2.0%. All 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico and 29 states experienced high ILI activity; New York City and seven states experienced moderate ILI activity; six states experienced low ILI activity; eight states experienced minimal ILI activity; and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in Puerto Rico and 44 states was reported as widespread; the U.S. Virgin Islands and five states reported regional activity; and the District of Columbia, Guam, and one state reported local activity.

